

## Some of the Postcard's Impact

### Case Study 1:

David had taken his mum Elsie for a walk and afterwards they were having a coffee in the café area of the local museum. On the tables were holders containing the 'Chance To Chat' postcards, including a few postcards explaining about the project. Elsie is living with dementia in a local care home. David showed his mum a postcard with an image of a steam train leaving the local station. This sparked a half hour conversation about family life. Elsie chatted about family trips by train to the seaside. How she would take David and his two sisters with a pushchair into the guard's van. Some days they took inflated tractor inner tubes to play in the local swimming pool and many of the local children would play with them.

David said his dad was friends with the man in the local signal box. One day he asked one of the drivers 'can we cab your train mister'? They were yanked into the cab by the fireman where he was cooking bacon and eggs on a shovel.

The conversation then led to David's work days at a local factory in the 1970's and 80's. He built prototype engines which were sent to Saudi Arabia. He tested them to 140% performance, mainly to be used on hoists and cranes. Then came the revelation that David wrote poetry about the assembly line, using the names of those on the line and their place on the line and the components they fitted. It was published in the company magazine. David is going to show his poems to family members who have never seen them.

David and Elsie hadn't talked about these shared memories for years and later that day they chatted and joked with other family members. The stories were written on the postcard and sent to one of Elsie's daughters. David felt it had helped to strengthen family bonds.

*(names changed)*